

Environmental Award Winners

The Air Force Chief of Staff announced in December the winners of the 2002 General Thomas D. White Environmental Awards, which recognize outstanding efforts to preserve and enhance the environment. All but two of the winners will compete for the Secretary of Defense Environmental Security Awards in the same categories. There were no equivalent awards for the Environmental Quality (Reserve Component) and National Environmental Policy Act categories at the DoD level. An award presentation ceremony was held at the Pentagon May 7.

(Gil Dominguez, HQ Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence public affairs)

Environmental Quality Award (Industrial)

Tinker AFB, OK (AFMC)

Reserve Component

177 Fighter Wing, Atlantic City, NJ,
International Airport (ANG)

Overseas

Ramstein AB, Germany (USAFE)

Pollution Prevention Award (Non-Industrial)

Eglin AFB, FL (AFMC)

Pollution Prevention Award (Individual/Team Excellence)

Robins AFB, GA (AFMC)

Cultural Resources Management Award (All Installations)

611 CES, Elmendorf AFB, AK
(PACAF)

Cultural Resources Management Award (Individual/Team Excellence)

Karlene B. Leeper, 611 CES,
Elmendorf AFB (PACAF)

Natural Resources Conservation Award (Large Base)

Patrick AFB, FL (AFSPC)

National Environmental Policy Act Award (Team Excellence)

Andrews AFB, MD (AMC), and
Langley AFB, VA (ACC)

Major General Augustus M. Minton 1911-2003

Maj Gen (ret.) Augustus M. "Gus" Minton, former Director of Civil Engineering from 1957 to 1963, died Jan. 2 in Bradenton, FL. He was 91.

During his six years as Director, General Minton played a pivotal role in establishing the structure and mission of Air Force civil engineering as we know it today. He took great interest in the professional development of engineers and placed emphasis on professional registration and the development of professional training facilities. He was responsible for the functional name change from Air Installations to Civil Engineering, and he founded *Air Force Civil Engineer* magazine.

As Director, he oversaw completion of the U.S. Air Force Academy, construction of facilities to field the country's first intercontinental ballistic missiles, and a vast increase in Air Force family housing under the Capehart program. He developed an effective strategy for programming construction programs and for presenting and defending them before Congress, earning him the respect and admiration of civil engineers and Congressmen alike.

Born in 1911, General Minton was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers in 1933. He was an officer at the Civilian Conservation Corps camp at Fort Sheridan, IL, and helped respond to the tragic flood on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers in 1937.

During World War II, he served with Army Air Forces Training Command. He talked about the time when training officials took over all the hotels in Miami Beach, FL, to accommodate the training mission. General Minton hosted a meeting chaired by Vice President Harry S. Truman to ensure the Army Air Forces got the support it required.

Following the war, the general served as the deputy chief of staff of administration for Twentieth Air Force in Guam. After earning a master's degree at Harvard Business School, he served two years as a comptroller in Alaska. From Alaska he returned to the training world, serving as Chief of Staff at HQ Air Training Command from 1951 to 1954 and later as base commander at Chanute Air Force Base, IL.

General Minton's six-year tenure as Director of Installations turned out to be the longest of any Air Force Civil Engineer to date. That enabled him, together with such Air Force leaders such as Chiefs of Staff Gen Thomas D. White and Gen Curtis LeMay, to have a major impact on the development and contributions of Air Force civil engineering.

One creative initiative of his was establishment of the "Cool School," an annual tour of northern tier bases designed to expose academic and corporate engineers to the challenges Air Force civil engineers faced in those locations.

Upon his departure from civil engineering in July 1963, the general served as the DCS for Administration and Logistics and later Chief of Staff at HQ Pacific Air Forces at Hickam AFB, HI. He ended his military career as Assistant to the Commander of Military Air Transport Service at



Major General Augustus M. Minton

Scott AFB, IL, in 1965.

After retirement from active duty, he worked for a number of engineering firms, most notably Day and Zimmerman in Philadelphia, PA, and Commonwealth Associates in Jackson, MI.

As a lasting tribute to the general's many contributions to Air Force civil engineering, the Maj Gen Augustus M. Minton Award for the best article published in *Air Force Civil Engineer* magazine each year is named in his honor.

The general was interred at Arlington National Cemetery. *(Lois Walker, HQ AFCEA Historian)*